Scheme to Ensure Higher Returns to Subscribers of PF in Government Services

1585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new scheme has been launched to ensure higher returns to subscribers of Provident Fund in Government service and undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of higher returns expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour in Tribal, Backward and Hilly Areas

1586. DR. B.L. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of bonded labourers particularly in tribal, backward and hilly areas, State-wise;

(b) the number of bonded labourers liberated/rehabilitated after the enactment of Bonded Labour Abolition Act, State-wise;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided for the purpose during the last three years to each State and particularly to North Eastern States;

(d) if so, the dsetails thereof and particularly in regard to tribal, backward and hilly areas; and

(e) whether any action plan has been formulated/proposed' to be formulated for their liberation and rehabilitation during the 50th year of India's Independence?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The State Governments have so far identified 2, 51, 424 bonded labourers out of which 2,30,915 have been rehabilitated under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bounded labour. The Scheme envisages rehabilitation assistance ' upto Rs. 10,000/- per bonded labour. The State-wise details of bonded labourers identified/released and rehabilitated may be seen at statement *(see* below)

Amount released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded Labour is given in the table below. Incidence of bonded labour has not been reported from any of the North East States. As such no funds were released to these states.

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Pradesh	101.41	31.25	79.37
Bihar	6.18	6.61	—
Karnataka	171.50	42.66	2.84
Kerala	6.03	—	—
Orissa	5.75	0.39	1.63
Rajasthan	1.69	3.28	5.70
Tamil Nadu	1.59	1.12	—

Identification and rehabilitation of the borded labour is a continuous process. Under the Act the responsibility of identification and rehabilitation rests with the State Government. Funds for rehabilitation are released as and when requirements are received to this effect from any State Government.

Statement

Statewise Details of Bonded Labourers

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers	
	Identified and Released	Rehabilitated
Andhra Pradesh	36,289	29,553
Bihar	12,986	12,270
Karnataka	62,708	55,231
Madhya Pradesh	12,804	11,897
Orissa	49.971	46,808
Rajasthan	7,478	6,217
Tamil Nadu	38,886	39,375
Maharashtra	1,382	1,300
Uttar Pradesh	27,489	27,469
Kerala	823	710
Haryana	544	21
Gujarat	64	64
Total	2,51,424	2,30,915

Child Labour in SSI Units in Punjab

1587. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industrial units functioning in the State ot Punjab;

(b) the number of child labour engaged therein; and

(c) the action taken by Government against these units for not implementing the Child Labour Act?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHIR M. ARUNACHALAM): fa) to (c) According to the information received from the State Government of Punjab, there are 184875 small scale industrial units functioning in the State. According to 1991 census, the total number of working children in the State is 1,42,868. However, specific information on the number of children engaged in small scale industrial units is not available. Employers found to be employing children in contravention of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 and the Factories Act, 1948 are liable to be proceeded against as and when such violations are detected.

Action taken on Non-Payment of Statutory Post Retirement-Dues

1588. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 208 dated 15th July, 1996 and state:

(a) whether cases referred in the reply had been taken up with the concerned administrative ministries as well as the Ministry of Finance, as assured;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been made available;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) action taken so far by the concerned authority adminstering the particular Statutory Act in respect of violation of such Acts?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Further action will be taken in consultation with the concerned Depai intents/Ministries.

Status of a Fundamental Right to Labour

1589. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to accord labour (work) status of a fundamental right; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.